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REMARKS

In the Advisory Action dated August 30, 2006, the Examiner refused to enter the proposed amendments made in Applicants' response dated August 14, 2006 because the response presented additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-36, without prejudice to their consideration in a continuing application, and present claims which were indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action dated May 12, 2006. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims in the Final Office Action dated May 12, 2006. Applicants note that, consistent with the Final Office Action's conditional allowance of claims 22 and 31 (i.e., allowable if rewritten in independent form), claims 22 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form as new independent claims 37 and 49; claims 1-36 have been canceled. Independent claims 37 and 49 are the sole remaining independent claims.

A number of dependent claims, many of which correspond to previously presented, but unentered, dependent claims, have been added to depend from claims 37 and 49. In particular, dependent claims 38-42 correspond to canceled claims 17-21, and dependent claims 50-51 correspond to canceled claims 32-33. Dependent claims 43-48 are newly added in this response and amendment, and support for the claims can be found on pages 10 and 11 of the specification and in the drawings as filed. The dependent claims presented herein include all the elements of allowable claims 37 and 49 and, therefore, are also allowable over the cited references. These dependent claims do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. No new matter has been added.

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CONCLUSION

Reconsideration in view of the above remarks and amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 37-51 are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should it be determined that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, or for appeal should that become necessary, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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